CONTACT

MAY deadline
5pm 15th APRIL
For **all** content-
Editorial &
Adverts

The community magazine for Chickerell and Fleet No 576

APRIL 2026
50th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

CONTACT CELEBRATES AT SPECIAL EVENT – see inside

Picture shows: The footpath from Putton Lane to Grey's Field estate

FOR YOUR LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS..

Give or Take event returns this month!!

Library seeks more volunteers - See library news

WITH BEST WISHES FOR EASTER To all our readers, advertisers & agents

From the editor:

Thank you to Mayor Andrew Reid and his wife Claire, the Mayoress, and the Chickerell Town Council staff who on 20th March invited volunteers past and present to the Willowbed Hall to a reception to celebrate 50 years of Contact. Gillian and I were proud to be presented with a crystal plaque by The Mayor, commemorating 50 years of service. See photos inside this issue.

Now that the clocks have moved forward to British Summertime it is good to see the spring flowers, trees and shrubs blooming again. Thank you to Carrie Dalby for the gardening notes for April.

When I was away last month the death of Royston Mowlam was not reported in Contact. To his family we send our sincere condolences. I was very sorry to report the passing of Mrs Maura Elliott of Rex Lane. I have known Maura since we were teenagers and it is sad to lose a good friend. To Barrie and his family, I also send my condolences.

Finally, on a happier note, enjoy the spring. And a Happy Easter to all our readers.

John Dean

DIARY DATES - APRIL
For more see local group entries

1st: Walkers Club meets, 2pm, Willowbed Hall. Fleet walk.
1st: Craft & Chat, Methodist Church.
2nd: Chickerell Luncheon Club.

7th: Colour & Chat (adults) library 2-4.
8th: Craft Group library, 10.15-12.15.
10th: Coffee morning, library, 10am to 11.30am.

11th: Walkers Club meets, 9am, Lugger Inn. One-hour social walk.
11th: Life & Soul village café, 10am to midday, Lugger Inn.
13th: Coffee morning, Charlestown Victory Hall, 10am-11.30am.
13th: Peto Book Club, library, 2pm.

15th: Craft & Chat, Methodist Church Chapel, 2pm.
17th: St Mary's Coffee morning in the church, 10am-12noon.
17th: Bingo, Charlestown Victory Hall, open 6.30pm, eyes down 7pm.
18th: Give or Take event, LDS Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.
19th: Civic Service, St Mary's.
21st: Colour & Chat (adults) library 2-4.
22nd: Craft Group library, 10.15-12.15.
24th: Walkers Club meets, Portland Heights Hotel, 10am.
25th: Coffee morning, Methodist Chapel, 10-11.30am.
30th: Walkers Club meets, Peto Garden (by Chickerell Library), 2pm.

WHO TO CONTACT: **Editor: John Dean**, 4 Rashley Road (01305) 785895. **Treasurer/Advertising Manager: David Tattersall: (**01305) 761643. email: **davidtattersall2003@yahoo.co.uk** Please contact David if you wish to place an advert or renew an advert. **Compiler: Caroline Tomlinson:** Email: caroline@elephantsears.org

Please send all letters to the editor, articles and editorial to the compiler. When sending an email, you need to put 'Contact Magazine' & the appropriate month in the subject heading, or it will be regarded as 'spam'. You need to add a phone number for queries. Letters and editorial contributions, which **may be edited**, are welcome but anonymous letters will not be published. Note: the views and opinions expressed by the contributors in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor, compiler or publisher. Every effort is made to ensure all information provided is correct at time of going to press. **Closing date for articles:** 5pm on the 15th of the preceding month. **Closing date for adverts:** (including amendments to current adverts) 5pm on the 15th of the preceding month. PLEASE SEND ADVERTS AS EITHER A JPEG OR BITMAP AND SIZED ACCORDINGLY. Thank you. All artwork is accepted on the strict condition that permission has been given for its use in this publication. Adverts are accepted in good faith in the strict understanding that goods and services described are both fair & accurate. Adverts will not be placed in Contact without prior payment. Copies of Contact (if not delivered to your door) available at: Chickerell Library; Chickerell Pharmacy and hairdresser next door; Wessex Pharmacy; Sgt Bun Bakery, Lanehouse Rocks Road; Codfathers. Online in colour on the Chickerell website.

CHICKERELL WEBSITE By James Bennett: Find us at www.chickerell.com and view Contact Magazine including past issues.

HEALTH INFORMATION

WYKE REGIS AND LANEHOUSE MEDICAL PRACTICE: (with Chickerell Surgery) Registered patients are requested to use the internet site: www.wykeregisandlanehousemedicalpractice.co.uk for any medical query or appointment request. If unable to access this: Tel: 01305 782226. **Emergency Care Service: Dial 111. If critically ill call 999.** For critical conditions: DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL Accident and Emergency Department, Dorchester. Urgent, less critical: WEYMOUTH URGENT CARE CENTRE, Weymouth Community Hospital. Open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

CHEMISTS: Chickerell Pharmacy 779054: Open 8.30-5.30pm Monday to Friday (closed lunch 1-2pm). Wessex Pharmacy (Lanehouse) 783287: Open 9-5.30pm Mon to Fri (closed lunch 1-2.15pm) Sat: 9-1pm.

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Contact is printed by Print Shop Express, Chickerell.

NEWS……NEWS…..NEWS…..NEWS – see News Extra also this month

GIVE OR TAKE IS BACK! The popular Give or Take Day, where you can swap what you don't want for the things you do, for free, is back on **Saturday 18th April from 9.30-12.30pm at the LDS church opposite Budmouth School on Chickerell Road**. It is organised by Dorset Council (waste services and recycling). Items need to be dropped off from 9am to 11.30am, with the doors opening at 9.30am. The council says no dealers or traders. Small furniture, kitchenware, household items, tools, DVDS, CDs, bicycles, toys & books, clothes and reusable linen (curtains, sheets) bric-a-brac are welcome, provided they are in good condition. Duvets & pillows, hazardous/toxic items, large items that won't fit in a car and gas/electric items are not permitted. Those attending can bring up to 15 items each. "Nothing to bring, come along anyway!" It is all with the aim of reducing waste and reusing, to help the environment.

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HELPING THE HEDGEHOGS: From the Chickerell Hedgehog-friendly Town Group: The group is pleased there have been sightings of hedgehogs in the area even through the winter: "The sightings are spread across all the residential areas and it appears that we have a healthy population. There have been a few sightings of dead hedgehogs and we would like to point out that these are just as important as sightings of those alive: "If you see an ailing hedgehog, please call or text, 07866726599 and we can put you in touch with a local hedgehog rescue. Do not pick a hedgehog up with bare hands but, if you wish to place it in a box for transport, use thick gloves. Their spines are very sharp. You do need to note exactly where you see it. A hedgehog out in the day is almost certainly sick and needs medical attention. They are nocturnal creatures. We are soon coming into the season when they are mating and having young. Please look out for them and keep sending in your sightings. More news next month." Advance notice: The Hedgehog Fair has been moved to the spring this year and the next one will be on May 16th at the Methodist Church, North Square from 11am-2pm. Lunch in the form of bacon butties will be available as well as the usual tea, coffee and cakes.

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PARKING ON EAST STREET: A laminated notice was attached to the bus stop just near the Turks Head in East Street at the end of February after a No 8 bus into Weymouth could not pass through due to parked vehicles. The notice (which has since been removed) with First Bus logo, stated that: 'Due to vehicles parking on East Street in a way that prevents the bus from passing safely, we may be unable to serve this stop at certain times. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause'. As far as Contact is aware, all buses have been passing through East Street as normal since that time.

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FAREWELL TO Jones the blue crane: The giant blue crane, a feature of Chickerell skyline for many weeks, finally left the Wessex Water works off Lower Way on 11th March, complete with an abnormal load escort.

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HELP FOR YOUNG AT RISK: Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick has helped to fund a new initiative based at Budmouth School to help disadvantaged young people who are struggling at school and at risk of exclusion, to build confidence, resilience and a stronger sense of belonging. The Level Up project is delivered by 100 & First Foundation, a Dorset-based charity in partnership with Dorset Council and the police and crime commissioner. It is based around one-to-one mentoring with weekly sessions designed to create a safe space for young people to talk openly while encouraging the development of skills including coping with emotions, mental health first aid and decision-making. Students are encouraged to recognise their abilities and believe in their potential. The project aims to cut poor attendance, reduce disruptive/anti-social behaviour and for the students concerned to feel supported at school.

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NEWS FROM DORSET TRADING STANDARDS: Illegal goods: Trading Standards has been working in partnership with Dorset Police to take action on the small number of shops that sell illegal smuggled non-duty tobacco and vapes not approved for sale in the UK: "These illegal products are often sold at less than half of their normal retail price and they are often sold to children who are clearly under 18 years old." Action taken has included making test purchases to prove the sale of the illegal goods and searching shops and seizing any illegal products found. Trading Standards urges anyone who thinks illegal products are being sold or being sold to children, to report it via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

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BIN CHANGES: Dorset Council's Waste Team has been contacting residents in Chickerell to tell them their bin day is changing as from the middle of this month (12th April). Some Thursday collections will be on Wednesdays instead, with the first collection day Wednesday 15th April. The aim is to improve efficiency. The council says it will be contacting all those affected by any day change. All bins should be collected by 4pm on collection day.

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NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS, CLUBS & SOCIETIES – more overleaf

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S – Chickerell's historic, listed church in North Square

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the 2026/27 100 Club. The winning numbers for March were: 30, 53 and 15. It is not too late to join the 100 Club as the annual cost goes down each month; so in April you would pay £10 for the chance to win monthly cash prizes, starting with the May draw all the way through to the final February 2027 Draw. Contact Hilary on 01305 772817 for a form or email johnben33@gmail.com and I will deliver one to you.

As Willowbed Hall has been unavailable recently, we have been unable to do our usual monthly table sales. Our February Coffee morning made £127.50, so thank you to all our cake makers, visitors and 'staff'.

Our next **Coffee morning in the North Aisle Café at church will be on Friday 17th April from 10am-12noon.**

We shall hope to share a Seafront Stall with Emmanuel Church again in the summer, on Friday 21st August, so if you have any jigsaws, books or bric-a-brac that you would like to part with, please contact Hilary, as above, for collection.

The Bank Holiday Book Sale with Bric-a-Brac at 11 Randall Close will be on Monday May 4th, if the weather is fine, or if not, on Monday 25th May. Look out for posters around the village.

NEWS FROM THE LIFE & SOUL COMMUNITY TRUST

This month The Lugger will once again host the **Life & Soul café** on **Saturday 11th April** from 10am to midday. The Trust is aware some customers may have difficulty getting to The Lugger for the café and, if this affects you, then please contact the pub directly on 01305 766611 to arrange travel assistance on the day. For those able to make their own way, there is parking available. For the popular Life & Soul Walking Club walk which is before the monthly café, see **details below.**

LIFE & SOUL WALKERS CLUB: Group walks organised each month for those who like walking

Wednesday 1st April: Fleet Walk. Meet 2pm at the Willowbed Hall: Rifle Range to Butter Street, if conditions are favourable. Easy to medium walk – three to four miles.

Saturday 11th April: The Popular Social one-hour walk. Meet 9am at the Lugger. Hard surface walk, suitable for most people including prams & mobile scooters. Dogs welcome. Ending at the Village Cafe.

Friday 24th April: Portland Museum Walk. Meet 10am, Portland Heights Hotel entrance. Circular walk with hills and coffee stop. Difficult walk; four to five miles according to conditions.

Thursday 30th April: Moonfleet Walk. Meet 2pm at Peto Garden (next to Chickerell Community Library). Circular walk along the Fleet. Medium walk with care at some muddy areas.

CHICKERELL LUNCHEON CLUB – First Thursday of the month at the Turks Head pub, East Street

What a lovely meal we had as always last month. Thank you to everyone at the Turks Head. In April we are having chicken in a honey and mustard sauce with vegetables. Our April meeting will include the list to sign up for our next outing. We do have vacancies for our club; please get in touch if you would like to join us.

For any queries/cancellations please phone Ann 07387 223339 or Ruth 775364.

CHARLESTOWN VICTORY HALL, PUTTON LANE venue for classes, clubs and events

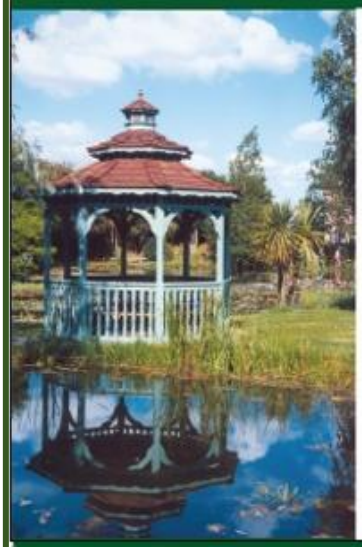
DIARY DATES Monday: pm: Ballet; Modern Tap* (WSB) Evening: Dorset Phoenix Folk Dancing (telephone 568674 for more details). **Tuesday:** am: Move it or Lose it, 10am-11am. Pm: Ballet; Modern Tap* (WSB). **Wednesday:** pm – WHIST. **Thursday:** pm - Gymnastics* (WSB) **Friday:** Evening - BINGO (fortnightly). **Saturday**: am Cygnets Ballet* (WSB). *additional dance sessions available with WSB (Weymouth School of Ballet) contact: Lisa 07703463974.

NEWS: Bingo: Just one date for April – Friday 17th. There is no bingo on April 3rd as it is Good Friday, traditionally a family time. Due to the Bank Holidays, the next coffee mornings will be on **Monday 13th April** and Monday 11th May. We look forward to seeing you.

A note from the committee: Clive Hall, who has been a stalwart member for many years, has stepped down from the committee. We will miss him and look forward to seeing him in the future.

A reminder – the hall is a drop off point for Chickerell Food Bank when open. Please contact Joe on 01305 789125 for all booking enquiries.

Bennetts Water Gardens



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CHICKERELL MOONFLEET WI: Meets 7pm on second Monday of each month at Willowbed Hall

There was a real buzz at the March meeting, as members watched Deborah Clarke from Creative Clay demonstrate how working with clay can be so therapeutic, creative, calming and inclusive for everyone. She explained how the surface texture can be altered by pressing in different elements such as lavender, sage and mint. She runs workshops throughout Dorset for all sections of the community. While she was talking, Deborah demonstrated how to craft a wonderful Easter Bunny with attitude. For more information about future meetings/events, please contact Jacqui on 07870 411721.

NEWS FROM CHICKERELL METHODISTS: CHURCH & HALL corner of North Square and West St

The Craft and Chat group will meet at 2pm in the Chapel on **Wednesdays 1st & 15th April.** Bring your own craft and enjoy a chat with friends or perhaps learn something new. We welcome new members to our craft groups or just come along for a chat. Our next Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 25th April** from 10-11.30am in the Chapel. Coffee/tea and cake and biscuits will be served and there will be the usual raffle. All welcome.

MARSHALLSAY COURT: Events in the communal lounge in the flats in Marshallsay Road
Coffee mornings every Wednesday 10-11am with raffle.

CHICKERELL FOODBANK **Email: placemarys4@gmail.com Tel: 07591851075**

Thank you to all who support us whether that is by donating, being a collection point or volunteering. Without your support, we would be unable to help those needing it in our community. If you are struggling for any reason, or know of anyone who is, please give us a call on 07591851075 and leave a message if no answer.
We are in need this time of the following:
Toilet Rolls. Tinned meats – e.g., corned beef, ham, Spam, chicken in white sauce, minced beef. Tins of peas, carrots, sweetcorn. Pasta bake, pasta sauce. Custard. Teabags, coffee, semi-skimmed long-life milk.
Drop off points: 56 Lilly Lane (shed if out); Chickerell Library (when open); Chickerell Primary Academy (term time only); Wisebuys, Lynch Lane; Victory Hall, Charlestown; 57 Oldridge Rd; 11 Randall Close (garage if out).
Chickerell Town Council offices at the Willowbed Hall: The council can take donations Monday to Thursday, between 9.30 and 12noon.

MORE LOCAL GROUPS & EVENTS

WYKE REGIS GARDENING CLUB: The Clubhouse in Rylands Lane is open Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Membership £10 per year. For more information Email: enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or call 01305 602137.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND LADIES PROBUS CLUB: Are you over 55 or semi-retired? Come along & join us at our sociable meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 11am to 1pm for an interesting talk & lunch afterwards if you choose. First three meetings free! Phone Diana on 01305 785313 for details and a chat.

SOUTHILL GARDENING CLUB: Talk by a representative from The Gardens Group (Poundbury Garden Centre) on 'Sweet Plants and Sugar Sources' that can be grown & used in gardens today. Tuesday **14th April, 7.30pm,** Southill Community Centre. Members and non-members are welcome. Refreshments available Further information on the show or the club in general can be obtained from Nigel Smith on 01305 788939.

CHITTER CHATTER CLUB Meets Mondays at the Royal Hotel, Weymouth Esplanade, 2.30pm. To combat loneliness. All welcome to sit and talk.

FRIENDS OF WEYMOUTH LIBRARY (FOWL): Meets 10.30am **Saturday 4th April** in the library with Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist at Dorset Council, on preserving the site of the High Angle Battery, Portland. Tickets £2 for members and £3 non-members.

ANDYSMANCLUB Helping to get men talk, meets Mondays 7pm (except Bank Holidays) in the Dry Dock, St Thomas Street, Weymouth; at the Beehive, Portland and the Cadet Reserve Barracks, Dorchester info@andysmanclub.co.uk (National Charity).

DORSET PHOENIX FOLK DANCE meets Mondays from 7.30pm-9pm at Charlestown Victory Hall, Putton Lane. Ideal for gentle exercise. £3 per session. New members welcome.

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CHICKERELL COMMUNITY LIBRARY – East Street, Chickerell. Telephone: 01305 760095

Opening Hours: **Tuesday 10am-12.30pm; Weds 10am-12.30pm and 4-6pm; Thursday 2-4pm; Friday 2-4pm; Saturday 10am-12.30pm.**

NEWS: Can you spare a couple of hours occasionally? The library committee is looking for new volunteers to join the team! You can help as little or as often as you like. You can attend a session to see what happens before you commit to three training sessions and you are left to work alone. **EVENTS: Coffee Morning** (second Friday this month) **10th April** 10–11.30am**.** A chance to chat with friends, old and new, over coffee and perhaps win a prize in the raffle. **Peto Book Club: Monday 13th April, 2pm.** A chance to read & discuss various genres of books. The **Colour and Chat Group meets on Tuesdays 7th & 21st April 2–4pm**. Pictures and pens/pencils provided. Come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends. **Craft Group** (formerly Knit & Natter): **Wednesdays 8th & 22nd April** 10.15-12.15. Bring your own craft, knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, etc., and enjoy a cuppa with like-minded friends. **Lego meeting 30th March 2-30-4pm**. See Facebook page for more information.
REMINDERS: Photocopying & computers available. Books & greeting cards for sale for a small monetary donation plus a range of local history books to borrow for anyone new to the area; we are also a drop-off point for Chickerell Foodbank (during opening hours).

CHICKERELL PRE-SCHOOLS

DUCKLINGS PRE-SCHOOL: Methodist Church Hall, North Square, Chickerell DT3 4DX
Tel: 01305 766920 Email: ducklings.pre@btinternet.com
Website: ducklingspre-schoolchickerell.co.uk **or visit our Facebook page**

Sessions: Three and four-year-old sessions available from September 2026, with limited availability for children from two years six months. Please contact us now to request an application form. Tax-free 15-hour and 30-hour funded childcare accepted.
Information: This term the children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating **World Book Day**. Their love of books is wonderful to see and a real pleasure to share! Children brought in favourite books from home to read with their friends, which created lots of excitement and discussion. We also saw some fantastic costumes, including dinosaurs, Stephen Hawking, Spiderman, Curious George, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and many more creative characters. Another highlight was movie night, where some of the children enjoyed watching *Zog* together. As we move into spring, we hope to fill our planters with vegetables and would greatly appreciate any donations such as compost, bark, play sand, mini greenhouse, or vegetable and herb seedlings.
For more information please visit our website or Facebook page, which are regularly updated.

CHICKADEES: Rashley Road (by Chickerell Primary Academy) Tel: 01305 773103.
Contact Jenny Lamming, pre-school manager. Email: pre-school@chickerell.dorset.sch.uk

CHICKERELL PRIMARY ACADEMY - Rashley Road.

School Office: 01305 579148 – please contact office if you are new to the area and would like to join our school

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL: We hope you are all well and enjoying the long-awaited arrival of spring. We also hope you have a wonderful Easter, able to spend some special time with family and friends.
School life has been as busy and positive as ever. The children continue to work incredibly hard, and we are always so impressed by their enthusiasm and engagement in lessons. Our teachers do a fantastic job of making learning enjoyable and inspiring curiosity, which encourages the children to do their very best each day.
We were delighted to welcome two very special visitors to the school. We were **thrilled to host Canadian singer and children's wellbeing advocate Capri Everitt**. During her visit, she shared her music with the pupils and spoke about the importance of kindness, friendship, looking after our mental wellbeing and staying safe when online. The children loved singing and dancing along with her and learning how small acts of kindness can make a big difference within our school community. It was a truly inspiring and memorable experience for everyone involved. We also enjoyed **a fantastic visit from The Skipping Ninja**, who led energetic and engaging skipping workshops for the pupils. The children had great fun learning new skipping skills and taking part in a variety of active challenges. The sessions encouraged everyone to stay active, build confidence and understand the importance of keeping our bodies healthy. The Skipping Ninja inspired us all to grab a skipping rope and practise skipping! At our school, we place great importance on supporting both physical and mental wellbeing. Visits like these help reinforce those values and inspire both children and staff to continue looking after themselves and supporting one another every day. With best wishes from the children, staff, and governors.

CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL

Council offices adjoin Willowbed Hall, Putton Lane.
Office open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to noon Tel: 01305 767458.
Website www.chickerell-tc.gov.uk Email: townclerk@chickerell-tc.gov.uk

The Town Council has responsibilities for Chickerell's **open spaces**, eg., Willowbed field, Claypits (off Glennie Way) and the land off Meadow Close. It is also responsible for the **hiring out** of the Willowbed Hall and Sports Pavilion (Lower Way); has responsibilities for the **local cemetery** (St Mary's), **bus shelters**, the **play area** on the Willowbed field and allotments**.** Please contact the council if there are any issues with these areas.

Town Council full council meeting 3rd Tuesday of every month, in the Willowbed Hall at 7pm.
Members of public welcome to speak in democratic half hour 7-7.30pm.

Anti-social behaviour: Please report all incidents to the police either online : The website is dorset.police.uk - see the Contact section (where you can report crime online) Or by calling 101, the non-emergency number available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Remember, if a crime is in progress or life in danger call 999.

CCTV is around the Willowbed field & is constantly monitored

WILLOWBED HALL, Putton Lane & THE SPORTS PAVILION, Lower Way: Available for hire. Queries and bookings: Town council number above.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL COUNCIL DETAILS

REFUSE/RECYCLING, RUBBISH BIN PROBLEMS, FLY TIPPING: Call Dorset Waste Services on 01305 221040 or report online via dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-litter and follow the link.
The main number for Dorset Council is 221000. The main number for Dorset Council which covers this area is 251010.
HIGHWAY ISSUES: Roads, verges and hedges, public footpaths, streetlights, road signage, winter maintenance and bus timetables – if you have any queries regarding any of these contact Dorset Council.
DOG WARDEN: Contact by email: envhealth@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
STREETLIGHTS: If there is a streetlight out, please phone 0800 0684145.
FLOODING: For sandbags, please call 01305 251010 and ask for emergency planning who will advise where sandbags can be purchased.

Water emergencies: Report to Wessex Water – 0345 600 4 600.
Electric Emergencies: 105. Call this number for emergency help.
CITIZENS ADVICE: Details on website www.westdorsetca.org.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT: Dorset Council on 01305 251010. See website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk follow links to planning section and search for Chickerell to view applications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS received by Dorset Council

P/HOU/2026/00636 9 Vulcan Close, Chickerell: Erect 2 storey side extension incorporating partly constructed ground floor extension.
P/VOC/2026/00939 423 Land adjacent Chickerell Road: Erect 1no. dwelling (with variation of Condition 2 of Planning permission P/FUL/2021/02048 : Remove basement.
P/TRC/2026/01068: 7 East Street: T1 Acacia – 10-15% crown reduction. 2m of eastern side to balance. 1m off western side and 1m off top. T2 Acacia – 10-15% crown reduction. 1-2m off top and sides. Create a 1-1.5m distance from the building on the southern side.
P/NMA/2026/01045: Land at Bank and Ridge Farms to West of School Hill: Non Material Amendment to reserved matters approval WD/D/18/001922 – reduce front gardens of plots 138 to 143 to facilitate additional parking space for each of these plots.
P/HOU/2026/00660: 531 Chickerell Road: Conversion of garage block to annexe to provide additional accommodation incidental to the main residential use; erection of outbuilding.

NEWS FROM CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL Councillor surgery dates overleaf

MAYOR'S CIVIC SERVICE

The Mayor and Mayoress of Chickerell, Councillor Andrew Reid, and Mrs Claire McCarthy Reid invites the community to join them at a **Civic Service of thanksgiving Sunday 19th April 2026**, 3pm at St Mary's Church, Chickerell, followed by refreshments.

NEWS EXTRA…. NEWS EXTRA……NEWS EXTRA…….NEWS EXTRA….

QUIZ NIGHT FOR SCHOOL From the Friends of Chickerell Primary Academy: The friends are inviting the community to put their knowledge to the test at what promises to be a fun-filled Quiz Night on Friday 8th May. Teams of up to six can enter for £60 per table, which includes a shared food platter for each team: "It's the perfect excuse to gather friends, enjoy some friendly competition and raise money for a great cause. The evening is BYOB and open to anyone aged 18 and over.

"Arrival is from 7pm, with the quiz starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the school in person or via our Facebook Page - Friends of Chickerell Primary Academy.

"All funds raised will go towards supporting the school and helping provide enriching opportunities for pupils."

****

LITTER PICK SADNESS: From a reader of Contact: I was looking forward to 'doing my bit' to help keep the community neat and tidy by taking part in the Litter Pick as advertised on the front of Contact last month. I was surprised when I got to the Willowbed at 9.45am (quarter of an hour before the event) to see no sign of anyone. I waited until 10am, the time stated; four other people had now joined me all expecting to see someone from the council with the equipment promised but there was nothing. No-one was there from the council and there was no notice on the hall to say what was happening. After a while I decided to phone a local councillor and he told me it had been cancelled and it was on Facebook as being cancelled. Along with many people, including, I am sure, other readers of Contact, I do not use Facebook. I think it was a pity that it was cancelled in such a way due, apparently, to 'inability to get at equipment needed due to building work.' Please if such events are cancelled, can the council at least put up a notice or pop along in person at the time to explain? It is only courtesy. Thank you. From an Annoyed Resident (Name and Address supplied).

****

AS CONTACT went to press, the postbox outside the old Charlestown Post Office had a large black bin bag tied over it – the door was missing – and a notice taped on it stating it was temporarily out of order.

TOWN COUNCILLOR SURGERIES: Chickerell Town Council invites residents to attend regular Saturday morning surgeries with town councillors at Chickerell Community Library for Chickerell Village Ward residents and at the Marquis of Granby pub on Chickerell Road for Charlestown and Littlesea residents. **The next meeting, is on 18th April at Chickerell Community Library from 10am to 11.30am.**

COMMUNITY LUNCH is cancelled for April due to cooker repairs. Many apologies.

Nature Notes and news – including what has been seen in and around Chickerell

Up until just very recently the weather has not been ideal for nature spotting; other than to watch the antics of starlings and the gulls. However, looking up into the sky one day after hearing their distinctive nasal, slightly whining call, **Mediterranean gulls** were spotted flying overhead. These gulls are similar in size to Black headed gulls and the adults have pure white wings.

It has been sad to hear a lonely male **blackbird** singing every morning and evening near us in the hope of attracting a mate. He has not had any luck so far, but another male blackbird has been lucky as he was spotted with a female up on the Willowbed field. She was gathering worms, and as blackbirds nest early, gathering her strength up for her brood. Did you know Thomas Hardy described the male blackbird's bill as 'crocus coloured?' It is a good way of describing the bright colour of the bill that contrasts so strongly with its deep black body.

As the sun came out and was noticeably warmer, it was a delight to hear the explosive, short call of the **Cetti's Warbler** down by the allotments. These birds are rarely seen, despite the call being almost ear-splitting and next to you. It is almost impossible to see, as it tucks itself deep into the bushes. It is about the size of a robin, reddish brown in colour, dusky white underneath, with a distinctive eye stripe.

It was also good to see a **buzzard** flying high over towards the electricity sub-station and the bright yellow of a newly emerged **Brimstone butterfly** fluttering up and down across the allotments.

Meanwhile the **sparrows** have been chattering in the hedgerows along the path down to the allotments and a **buff-tailed bee** (with a beige rear end) was helping itself to some pollen from a flowering rosemary bush on a plot. Spring is definitely in the air at last, with the trees budding, the blackthorn in flower and daffodils on show.

DID YOU KNOW THAT: Apparently the old Dorset name for a Whimbrel – similar than a curlew but smaller and less common – is Chickerel? It is presumed to have been called this in reference to its unusual call.

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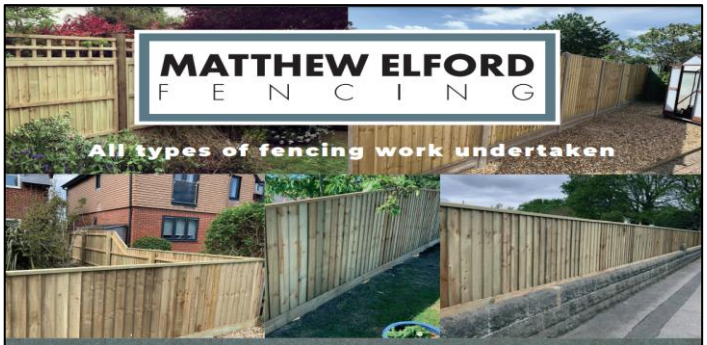

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CONTACT CELEBRATES!!! 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Mayor & Mayoress with Gillian & John

John & Gillian cut the cake

More than 60 people who had been involved with Contact Magazine over the years and current volunteers and supporters came together in the Willowbed Hall in March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Contact. The event was hosted by The Mayor, Coun Andrew Reid and his wife Claire, the Mayoress, who welcomed guests to the event with the assistance of town council staff. The event was organized to recognise the magazine's contribution to the local community and those involved in its success. John's role in Contact, along with his wife Gillian, was recognised with the presentation of a crystal plaque, dedicated to their 50 years of work on the magazine. A 50th anniversary cake was also cut by John and Gillian in front of a celebration banner in a specially decorated Willowbed Hall. There was also a display of Contact covers from over the years (see inset picture above). The cake and catering was provided by Lizzie the Baking Bird from Upwey. Lizzie is known locally for holding a pop-up bakery in the Turks Head pub every Friday morning.

A LOOK BACK TO CONTACT MAGAZINE 32 YEARS AGO

APRIL 1994

- After more than 30 years of waiting, Chickerell's 119-year-old school was to be replaced. Building was officially due to commence on Monday 11th April 1994.
- Charlestown Social Club asked if anyone was interested in a Dakota flight over Weymouth on 20th July 1994. The flight would be taking in the Tall Ships Race on the same day. At least 36 people were needed and the £40 cost included coach from Weymouth to Hurn Airport and back.
- Chickerell Parish Council was urging residents to get interested in the forthcoming review of Local Government and attend a public meeting at Budmouth School.
- The parish council was placing bulk refuse skips in the Turks Head car park, the top of Wilmslow Road, at Fairfield, the entrance to the army ranges, Victory Hall, Cobham Drive and at Buckland Ripers – over the weekend of 23rd/24th April 1994.
- A baby and child health clinic was to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall (*which in those days housed an offshoot of Abbotsbury Road surgery*). A Health Visitor would be at each session.
- A man from Portland was asking if any Contact readers had any pictures of beacons – even if they were a distant, background view – that were used to mark distances during Royal Navy speed trials: "Speed trials were carried out in West Bay by the Royal Navy in the early 1900s, (they) depended on two leading marks to indicate the measured distance. One set was near Chickerell Hive, the other near the old coastguard lookout (now demolished) in Wyke near the bridging camp. Vessels would steam towards Portland heading for a single beacon at Blacknor. This was brick built, 22ft high, painted black with a white band down its centre. Similar beacons, only painted white with black bands, marked the measured distance. These were still shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1942 and are marked 'speed beacons'."
- A recipe for Furmity, mentioned in Thomas Hardy's novels, was printed in Contact this month in 1994. It was a recipe that had been handed down to one of the oldest residents in Chickerell at that time: Two ounces of wheat was soaked and cooked until tender in a quart of milk (usually the day before as it took so long) and then into the saucepan was added two ounces each of sultanas, currants and raisins, bringing to the boil. Two beaten eggs were added once off the heat and it was thickened with cornflour until creamy. Sugar or spice could then be added along with any other flavouring available such as blackberries or pieces of meat.

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THINGS TO DO & SEE IN THE EASTER HOLIDAYS & APRIL

WEYMOUTH PAVILION: (Box Office 01305 783225) Website: weymouthpavilion: The big attraction for Easter at The Pavilion is a panto version of The Little Mermaid, promising lots of singing, dancing and audience participation with X Factor's JJ Hamblett – shows at 1pm and 5pm on April 12th.
Tribute shows. Tributes to: Stevie Wonder (11th April); Barry Manilow (17th April), Robbie Williams (18th April) and Fleetwood Mac (3rd May). Plus there is a Glam Rock Show at 7.30pm on April 16th with a live band covering hits from T Rex, Slade, Mud and more. Films include: Toddler Time: A 27 minute animation **Zog & Zog and the Flying Doctors (U)** – an accident-prone dragon starts dragon school – 11am on Saturday 25th April. **Hoppers**: Disney/Pixer animation that is a modern tech take on Dr Doolittle – 11am & 1.30pm on April 19th & 11am on May 4th. **Midwinter Break**: Retired couple Stella and Gerry (Lesley Manville & Ciaran Hinds) take a hard look at themselves while on a short break to Amsterdam; on 28th April at 2pm and 7.30pm. Sci-Fi: **Project Hail Mary (12A):** Ryan Gosling stars as a man who wonders why he has woken up on a spaceship and discovers he has to save the earth. Screening on 13th April, 1pm; 14th April, 4.30pm and 15th April, 1pm and 7pm.

****

WEYMOUTH'S POP-UP MUSEUM (39b St Thomas St, opposite Tescos) is hosting 'Look What I Found' a display of fossils found in & around Weymouth **until May 31st**. Free. Normal opening hours: Mon 10.30am-1.30pm, Tues-Fri 10am to 2pm, Saturday 10am to 1pm (Closed Sundays).

****

DORSET MUSEUM & ART GALLERY in Dorchester is hosting a celebration of World Heritage Day on April 18th with talks & presentations (to book) and family activities (no booking needed) including fossil handling, make & take and fossil ID; to celebrate the 25th anniversary inauguration of Dorset's Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

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CHURCHES PAGE FOR EASTER AND APRIL

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Sunday Services at 9.30am, with coffee/tea and chat afterwards.

No midweek Thursday Communion this month

5th: Parish **Eucharist for Easter Sunday** with Rev Richard Simmons 12th: Morning Worship with Nigel Uden
19th: Parish Eucharist with Rev Geoff Hebbern 26th: Parish Eucharist with Rev Dan Harland

THE BENEFICE OF WEYMOUTH ST PAULS WITH FLEET – Service at Fleet 2nd Sunday of the month

Holy Trinity Churches Fleet: The monthly service will be at **9am** on **Sunday 12th April** (based on our usual 30-minute communion service) in the New Church, taken by Fr James.
We are in process of revising the electoral roll for Holy Trinity, Fleet. Anyone wishing to be included should have applied to Geoff Taylor by 31st March.

Please note we are holding our APCM (AGM) after the service on Sunday 10th May 2026.
General queries: Geoff Taylor, Secretary 01305 782757.
Fund raising/events: 01305 778080 (churchwarden).

CHICKERELL METHODIST CHURCH: DT3 4DX On the corner of North Square & West Street.
Home to the Ducklings Pre-school. Services Sundays, 10.30am with coffee served afterwards

3rd: **Good Friday Service** at 2.30pm. Rev Helen Harrell followed by **tea and hot cross buns**

5th : **Easter Sunday** – Chris Smith 12th : United Service at Lanehouse
19th: Rev Helen Harrell (Holy Communion) 26th: Angela Gardner
See more about Methodist Church groups and regular events in the Methodist Church news section each month

LANEHOUSE ROCKS METHODIST CHURCH Lynch Lane, Weymouth. Services 10.30am Sundays

5th April: United Service at Chickerell 12th April: Mr Lownsbrough
19th April: J Turner-Smith – Holy Communion 26th April: United Service at Chickerell
All services are followed by light refreshments. All welcome!

CHICKERELL GOSPEL HALL: Corner of Chickerell Road/East Street. Services Sundays 3.30pm

PRAYERHOUSE CHICKERELL, East Street, (by library). Contact David and Caroline White at chickerell@theprayerhouse.co.uk or 01305 759968 www.prayerhousechickerell.

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH Lanehouse Rocks Road. Rector: 01305 784649. Services 11am Sundays
Rector: Rev John MacKenzie

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 396D Chickerell Rd. Sunday worship service 10am. Games night 7pm every Wednesday. Contact volunteer missionaries 07800 614589.

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THE LIGHT WEYMOUTH CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH Preston Village Hall, Preston Road, Weymouth DT3 6BH. Details on Facebook: The **church normally meets on a Sunday** and for special events; open to all. Facebook page for more details of all services. Thelightspiritualistchurch

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Gardening Notes for April by Carrie Dalby

We have had a fairly warm winter with very little frost … and a lot of rain. The plants have battled on regardless, producing spring flowers on time. My Hellebores are spectacular. Soil temperatures are slow to rise, due to the wet and cold winds. Until soil is at least 7'c, seeds should be sown under glass and planted out when suitable. Sow peppers, aubergines and cucumbers - they need light, so lay the seeds on the surface of the compost and set in a warm place. Potatoes are traditionally planted on Good Friday to coincide with the New Moon.

All roots need air in the soil, so dig in some mulch if it is soggy. A general feed such as Blood, Fish and Bone, Growmore, or chicken pellets forked into all beds now will give everything a boost. Visit Open Gardens and acquire more plants to fill gaps.

Keep weeding! Erect supports over herbaceous plants for them to grow through; always tidier than adding later. Softwood cuttings can be taken from many plants as the shoots grow long enough, e.g., Conifers, Penstemon and shrubs. Evergreen shrubs can be moved now as new shoots appear. Containers dry out quickly and should be well watered regularly - remember the hanging baskets and house plants. Add a feed weekly.

It is too late to cut hedges, because birds are nesting. Look out for wildlife; hedgehogs have young; amphibians are emerging from ponds and invertebrates are searching for pollen. Put water out for them.

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